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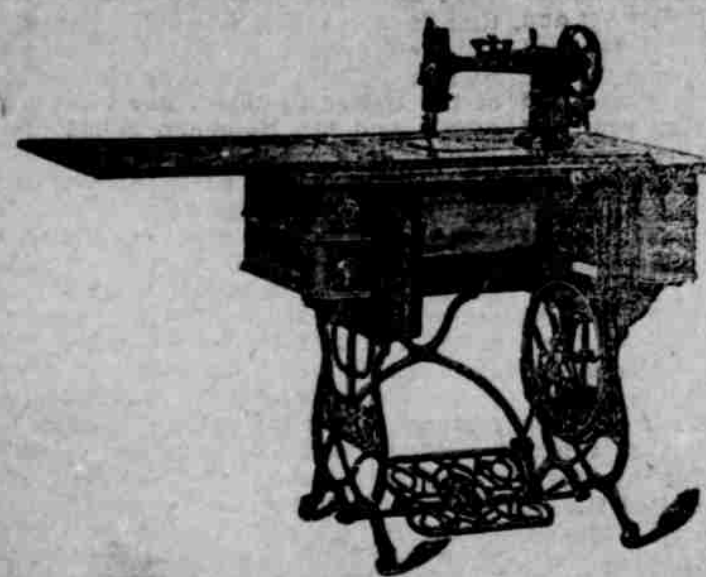
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CHINA HAS VAST ARMY

Equipped With Modern
Arms.

HAS PLENTY OF MAUSERS

A. H. Butler, of San Francisco,
Says a Million Men Will
Be Needed.

Every traveler who comes from the Orient tells the same story of the great preparations which the Chinese have been making for war, in the past few years, but none has spoken more emphatically on the subject than A. H. Butler, president of the California and Oriental Steamship Company, who arrived on the steamer Thyra yesterday from the East bound for San Francisco.

"I consider the outlook in China as most serious," said he last evening, "more so than the world yet believes. In my travels through China during the present year I have found everywhere thousands of armed and drilled and equipped troops, ready with all the most modern arms, to tackle the first enemy that appeared.

"The idea that the Chinese troops are armed with mediaeval weapons and undisciplined is all wrong. I have heard they control nearly all of the Mauser rifles in the world. Custom house certificates will show that they have at least 900,000 Mausers, that have been imported within the last few years. An English tourist told me that about Tien-tsin alone the Chinese Imperial Government had more big guns, Krupps and other modern engines of war than were possessed by the entire German army. I met four or five men in China who had been out there for years selling guns and ammunition to the Chinese Government and to the various Viceroyalties. They have Krupp guns in plenty, and modern rapid-firing and machine guns, and they have been taught how to operate them until they know as much about their management as any European soldier.

"All over the Empire there are arsenals where they are now making their own ammunition and storing it away in immense quantities. At Hankow, for example, where we went, five hundred miles or more from the coast up the Yang-tse, there were 20,000 well drilled troops. They had been under the instruction of Count Bernsdorff of the German army for several years, and were as fine a body of men as you could ask to see, well equipped with Mauser rifles, and in all respects as good fighters as any European troops.

"China must have an immense standing army by this time. I have no doubt that there are at least 200,000 troops about Peking at the present time. The Viceroyalties of the different provinces have been sending them in batches of a few thousands at a time for months past, and even though many of the Viceroyalties are in sympathy with the foreigners, they would be unable to control the troops after they were placed at the disposal of the Imperial Government. It will take at least 1,000,000 troops to put an end to this war if it goes much farther, of that I am sure, after seeing China and knowing the conditions there. Those who have not been and seen with their own eyes what immense forces the Chinese Gov-

ernment has at hand cannot appreciate what a task is before the allied forces. "The best hope for a cessation of hostilities is that some man like Li Hung Chang will intervene and prevent active hostilities from going any further. I think it was a mistake for the allied fleets to fire on the forts at Taku. It precipitated the troubles at Tien-tsin and Peking, and I believe that had there been no such attack we should have had the ministers out of Peking before this. It was that attack which caused the Imperial troops to take sides with the Boxers. If it had been avoided the Imperial troops would have joined to protect the Ministers.

"I believe fully that the Ministers are still safe in Peking. The Chinese are a wily race and I think that they are holding the Ministers as hostages and will deliver them up as soon as they are convinced that the rest of the world is not leagued against them for the dismemberment of their country. While in Peking, which I left on May 27th, I had a talk with Minister Conger. He then expected trouble, but nothing more than such riots as have taken place every few years. He did not dream of anything like what has taken place since. He talked with me of the Dowager Empress and he gave me a better impression of her than I had had before. I think that had not the Ministers sent for marines to protect them they would have been able to leave Peking easily and without restraint. As soon as the Chinese heard of the marines going to Peking they thought it the preliminary to a general invasion and they went out from Tien-tsin and tore up the railroad between there and Peking.

"I do not think the provinces to the south will join in the present trouble unless a general war commences. In that case no one knows the outcome. It will be too terrible to think of. It will mean the slaughter or the departure of every foreign resident in China except those at Hongkong. They will be safe there, but those at Canton would be helpless, so would those at Shanghai, and at Wu Chang, and at Han Wou on the Yang-tse, and those at Fu Chow on the Min. None of these places are defended, and they are surrounded by Chinese troops that need but the word from the Imperial Government to cut them off and then kill them at their leisure.

"But I hope that Li Hung Chang and others of the leaders will be able to intervene and stop the hostilities. It is a very serious situation, and unless the war is brought to a conclusion very soon it will result no one knows where."

FRENCH BOAT FOR CHINA.

River Gun Boat Which Is of Great Power.

HONGKONG, July 26.—The French river gunboat Argus, the erection of which has just been completed at Kowloon Docks, made her preliminary steam trial on Saturday last. This vessel was built to the order of the French Government by Messrs. John I. Thornycroft & Co., London, and was shipped in sections with her machinery and outfit for re-erection in Hongkong.

The official trial was made on the 17th inst., when a mean speed of 13 knots was maintained during six consecutive runs on the measured mile, after which the vessel was taken in chase by Captain Henry Florius, Lieut. de Vaisseau, of the French Navy. Capt. Florius commands a crew of 30 Europeans. On arrival of the guns from France the Argus will take her post as patrol on the West river. A second vessel of the same type as the Vigiliante has arrived and the sections are now being discharged from the Sado-maru.

Waialua Church Benefit.

It is expected that with the aid of Mrs. Annis Montague Turner, the promised church concert for this evening at Waialua will be a success. The selections to be rendered are excellent. The duet to be sung by Mrs. Turner and Mr. Laukea is of a high order and those who appreciate good music will not fail to enjoy it if they are present. Among those who are to render parts are: Miss Cecilia Percepe, Miss Helen Desha and Miss Lydia Abolo, Mr. W. J. Coelho and an orchestra under the leadership of Mr. Ernest Kaal.

WORKINGMEN

Plan to Celebrate Labor Day.

A Hundred and Fifty Sons of Toil
Gather to Discuss the
Matter.

Over 150 members of those interested in organizing labor unions met last evening at the Plumber's hall at Fort and Beretania streets for the purpose of discussing plans for the celebration of Labor Day. J. Connors of the Plumbers' Union acted as the chairman of the meeting and J. Lund of the Painters' Union was the secretary.

As the meeting was the first one of the year little actual work was accomplished, the time being devoted to a general discussion of the plans for the celebration. Representatives were present from almost every class of laboring men of the city, save the carpenters who for some reason failed to send a representative to the meeting. The following representatives of the various labor organizations who were present were appointed to work up interest in the Labor Day celebration among their fellows:

Bricklayers, Messrs. Thomas, Haley, Gregory, Henry Colse, Logan; Turners, Messrs. Toussay, Archie Homer; Machinists, W. C. Roe, G. Ward, Al. Jameson, May, Sagehorn; Bricklayers, George Markhim; Plumbers' Union, Messrs. Conner, Welsh, Slattery, Suliba, Lohman; Moulders' Union, Messrs. Green, Mahoney, Marron and Wilson; Tile Layers, Mr. Riley; Electric Workers, W. F. Dunn; Pattern Makers, E. Bonson and E. Monroe; Harness Makers, G. Boles; Seamen, Mr. Remus.

On Wednesday evening there will be a second meeting of the labor organizations at which committees will be appointed to take the first steps toward preparing for the celebration and ball. The painters of the city will hold a meeting on Monday evening for the purpose of laying plans for the organization of a union and for participating in the celebration of Labor Day.

Transports in Trouble.

FUSAN, Japan, July 20.—We have been visited for some days past by dense fogs and heavy rains, which so far have resulted in two disasters at sea. On the 15th inst., as the S. S. Genkai-maru was nearing Fusan—between Masamuro and Fusan—she grazed the side of a Russian transport which had on board at least a thousand soldiers with a great quantity of provisions. The ship was of 4,000 tons register and ran so close to the Genkai as to carry away the greater part of her hull. The Russian ship was going full speed, although there was a thick fog. On the same day a Russian bark bound for Vladivostok, with about 300 tons of wheat, met bad weather some fifty miles up the eastern coast and was trying to put in at the Russian whaling station, when, in a fog, she ran on a rock and sank in a short time. All the crew managed to get ashore and made their way to Fusan, where they arrived in sorry plight. The whole of the crew, with the exception of the captain and first mate, were Koreans or Japanese.

One of the best known American consuls to China is Rev. Dr. Samuel L. Gracey, who is at Foo-Choo. Dr. Gracey was born in Philadelphia in 1835. After obtaining an education he was for thirty years pastor of Methodist churches of considerable prominence in and about Philadelphia. He was twice elected to the Massachusetts legislature from Salem.

THREE BLOCK-HEADS PERISH IN FLAMES



THREE of Honolulu's best-known characters are gone. Their bodies have been given over to the devouring flames and nothing now remains except a little heap of ashes and a few little bits of charred wood, remnants of their wooden clothing, of their wooden forms.

They were figureheads and for years were grouped together beneath a spreading tree in Dowsett's yard. They faced King street and watched the daily procession to and fro along that busy thoroughfare day after day, month after month, year in and year out, rain and shine, without even the quiver of an eyelid or the tremble of a lip. And when the darkness fell who knows what weird tales of ocean mystery and adventure they recounted to each other—what thrilling incidents their wooden memories recalled and what romantic episodes and ghostly happenings their chiseled heads contained?

There were three of them—two gentlemen and a lady. The men, neatly bearded in large laped coats with white, boiled shirts well represented by the smoothness of the timber. The woman, fair queen of the sea, who one time kissed the billow's crest when'er the gallant ship of which she was the soul buried her nose in the heaving sea, was made in a dainty, free, loose blouse and flowing skirts. Who the three were supposed to represent is a

mystery too deep to fathom. Some say that one of the men was Abraham Lincoln and the other Jefferson Davis, while the woman was the sweetheart of some old whaler now dead and gone these fifty years.

Abraham Lincoln preserved his gaunt features well, while the wooden countenance of Jefferson Davis weathered the elements equally as well. The lady's complexion had suffered much by exposure to the sun and air. She found this climate enervating and became very pale. Each of them at one time graced the bow of some long voyaging whaler. They had traveled thousands of miles and passed through many a howling storm and meditated through many a still calm.

And when at different times the bones of their respective ships were cast upon the reefs that guard these heavenly isles from the encroachments of old ocean and the wrecker turned the bones to merchandise, he saved the figureheads and gave them a last resting-place beneath the big tree where they might contemplate the world from a handiwork's standpoint and bask in the glory of their glorious days gone by.

But irreverent hands have handled them until the hungry flames gave them their last long rest. Irrepressible youth, ever inventive as to forms of mischief and impertinence, fastened to the great, grave faces of Lincoln and Davis long and dignified beards of hemp. They stuck

into their eyes and tacks and nails into their eyebrows. They fastened poles to their sides and tied little flags thereto. They placed an empty beer bottle in the handless right arm of the fair wooden woman and otherwise treated her rudely. But now the joys and troubles of the three wooden friends are ended forever; for they have all gone up in smoke. And when the trio of famous blockheads were laid together on their funeral pyre and the flames crept lovingly around their weatherbeaten heads, they danced a sad funeral dance and changed from one color to another and back again until it seemed that little rainbows were being hatched in the fire. The wooden figureheads were richly salted by their years on the bosom of the ocean and the salt in their beings, the strong sea salt, made lovely colors in the fire. It seemed that all the great human emotions of love, hope, fear and inspiration which had been denied these poor wooden souls beings in their lives were manifested in the flames that ended their careers.



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